United Nations A/72/879–S/2018/474

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
25 May 2018

Original: English

**General Assembly**
**Seventy-second session**
Agenda item 34 (a)
**Prevention of armed conflict: prevention of armed conflict**

**Security Council**
**Seventy-third year**

## Letter dated 17 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the unlawful launch of the Kerch Strait bridge by the Russian Federation (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 17 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

## Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the unlawful launch of the Kerch Strait bridge by the Russian Federation

15 May 2018

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its strong protest against the launch of the bridge across the Kerch Strait and once again underlines that the construction of this infrastructure facility by the Russian Federation without the consent of Ukraine is unlawful.

Such actions by Moscow fundamentally contradict the generally recognized norms and principles of international law; grossly violate the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982 and bilateral treaty obligations to Ukraine.

In the context of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine and the temporary occupation of the Crimean Peninsula it is in fact an attempt to legitimize the annexation of part of Ukraine's sovereign territory.

The construction of the bridge, just like any other actions of the Kremlin's occupying authorities, in no way will change the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as an integral part of the territory of Ukraine in its internationally recognized borders. The Russian Federation, as an occupying power, is fully responsible for the consequences of its internationally wrongful acts and will reimburse the harm caused.

Ukraine will consistently work to expand national and international sanctions against individuals and legal entities involved in the illegal construction of the Kerch Strait bridge.